

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 8, 11, and 15-20 are presently active in this case, Claims 7, 8, and 11 having been amended, Claim 14 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 16-20 having been added by way of the present Amendment.

Claim 15 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. New Claim 19 represents allowable Claim 15 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of allowable Claim 15 and previously pending base Claim 8. New Claim 20 includes the allowable subject matter of Claim 15 and the subject matter of previously pending Claim 7. The Applicants submit that no new matter has been entered.

The Applicants want to thank Examiner To for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Christopher Ward, during the personal interview conducted on October 6, 2004.

In the Official Action, Claims 7, 8, 11, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mossi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,979). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the anticipatory rejection.

Claim 7 has been amended herein in the manner presented during the personal interview. Furthermore, Claim 8 has been amended to include not only the amendments presented at the personal interview, but also the subject matter of Claim 14. As agreed during the personal interview, amended Claims 7 and 8 overcome the rejection based upon the Mossi et al. reference.

Application Serial No.: 09/890,765
Reply to Office Action dated June 30, 2004

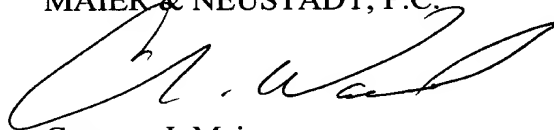
The Mossi et al. reference does not disclose squibs that are covered with firing lids having firing holes each being provided in a direction that does not extend through a center axis of the housing, as recited in Claims 7 and 8 of the present application. As is clearly evident from a review of Figures 1-3, at least the second chamber (82) includes a gas exit orifice that is provided in a direction that extends through the axis of the housing (12). Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claims 7 and 8.

Claims 11 and 16-18 are considered allowable for at least the reasons advanced for the dependent claims from which they depend.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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